COMMANDERS DIGEST

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RECEIVED DOCUMENTS DIVISION

DOD Supports Bill to Revise Retirees' Family Protection

Congress is considering legislation to revise the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) to make it more attractive to military personnel.

Under the RSFPP, servicemen may elect voluntarily, under four options, reduced retirement income to provide for survivors after the retiree's death.

Testifying in support of H.R. 12323, Brig. Gen. William W. Berg, USAF, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower), told a House Armed Services Subcommittee less than 17 percent of all eligible personnel now participate in the plan.

He said DOD studies indicate the rigid rules under which the present plan is administered and the complex methods by which participation costs and survivors' annuities are computed are the most serious complaints against the present RSFPP.

He then spelled out these specific complaints and DOD's proposed solutions:

- Servicemen must now elect their options before completing 18 years of service, thus forcing them to make retirement income commitments at a time when personal finances cannot be realistically forecast. DOD wants the timing changed to the 19th year.
- Under the present system, the only way personnel may withdraw after retirement is by offering proof of severe financial hardship, filing the so-called "pauper's oath." DOD suggests permitting withdrawal after six months by merely filing application, with no financial statement or board action required.

New Helicopter Armament System Has Interchangeable Weapons Capability

New flexible armament systems for the Army's AH-56A "Cheyenne" weapons helicopter will have a unique interchangeable weapons capability. Armaments consist of two interchangeable forward mounted nose turret systems and one 360-degree fuselage-mounted turret system.

They are said to operate reliably under combat conditions without requiring special maintenance or highly trained personnel.

The "Cheyenne" is an advanced aerial fire support system with top speed of more than 250 miles per hour. It can take off and land vertically, can hover and flies with the speed and maneuverability of fixed wing aircraft.

VEEP VISITS VIETNAM—Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey awards the Purple Heart to patients at the Naval Support Activity Hospital, Da Nang, in Vietnam. Accompanying the Vice President is Army Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Commander, Military Assistance Command Vietnam, and Navy Capt. Harry P. Mahin, hospital commanding officer.

SecNav Outlines Long-Range Program For Construction of Escort Ships

Secretary of Navy Paul R. Ignatius says the Navy is going forward with a long-range program to build both nuclear and conventionally powered escort ships.

The program will expand the number of nuclear ships over the next five years.

"With the construction of these ships," he said, "the surface escort forces will be modernized to meet the anticipated threat of the 1970s."

He indicated that many factors went into Navy's decision for a mixed fleet of nuclear and non-nuclear escort ships.

From a tactical standpoint, the Secretary said, nuclear power offers increased flexibility. But, he added, there are factors that tend to limit the number of nuclear ships the Navy can usefully employ.

He listed some of these as cost, personnel and the "industrial base for making nuclear equipment."

He said, however, that the tactical advantages are of sufficient importance to offset the increased costs of nuclear power and to justify a force of both nuclear and non-nuclear escort ships.

Washington Memos

HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD, Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, was presented to DOD Research and Engineering official Daniel J. Fink in Pentagon ceremonies. Mr. Fink was cited for "exceptionally distinguished service" from 1963-67 in R&D strategic and space system efforts.

FIRST FOREIGN ASSIGNMENT for Army's Shillelagh missile will be Australia, where that country's military will make an operational evaluation. It will be mounted on Gen. Sheridan armored reconnaissance airborne assault vehicle for tests.

NEWEST VERSION OF Atlas space launch vehicle, SLV-3A, has been accepted for Air Force by Space and Missile Systems Organization, El Segundo, Calif. New Atlas is designed to operate with Agena second stage but can also be used in direct ascent method where no upper stage is required.

MAJ. GEN. JOHN H. MASTERS, Commanding General of Marine Corps Supply Center, Barstow, Calif., is scheduled to relieve Maj. Gen. Sidney S. Wade as Deputy Chief of Staff, Commander in Chief, Atlantic. Brig. Gen. James E. Herbold Jr., will succeed Gen. Masters at Barstow.

DR. JOHN E. Vanderveen, Chief, Metabolic Factors Function, Physiology Branch, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks AFB, Tex., has been selected to receive 1967 McLester Award. Dr. Vanderveen is scheduled to receive award at 74th Annual Meeting of Association of Military Surgeons, Nov. 21, in Washington, D.C. He was selected for award for his research on nutritional requirements of man in space and his development of different sizes of food (bite size, dehydrate, etc.).

ARMY AVIATION MATERIEL Command has awarded $11 million contract to Vertol Division, Boeing Co., Morton Pa., for production and delivery of components applicable to advanced Army CH-47C Chinook helicopter and which will be used in meeting long leadtime requirements in support of production aircraft.

PORTABLE COLOR TV camera small enough to be carried by an astronaut in orbit has been developed for scientific work and also can be used for industrial and commercial purposes.

NUCLEAR POWERED ATTACK submarine USS Greenling has been commissioned at Groton, Conn. The 292-foot long Greenling is armed with submarine rockets and torpedoes.

THREE ADDITIONAL CLASSES in motor vehicle traffic management and accident prevention are scheduled during FY68 at Traffic Institute, Northwestern University. First class graduated in September with student body composed of military and civilian personnel from Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force. They represented security police, safety, transportation and engineering activities.

ARMY SELECTION BOARD convened in early November to consider promotion of officers of Army, Chaplain and Women's Army Corps to grade of major. Army Medical Service selection board is to meet on or about Dec. 4.

NAVAL POSTGRADUATE School will begin special one-year curriculum in meteorology in January for newly-commissioned ensigns graduating from Officer Candidate School at Newport, R.I. Purpose for establishing new course is to alleviate severe shortage of meteorology-educated officers. New curriculum will be at graduate level with admission requirements including undergraduate work in mathematics and physics. Course will qualify graduates to serve in meteorological assignments at Fleet Weather Centrals and Facilities where major shortage now exists.

FOURTH AIR FORCE Reserve Region headquarters, Randolph AFB, has been named prime military sponsor of an 11-day National Security Seminar scheduled at Trinity University Jan. 8-19. Co-sponsors are 4th Army Hq., Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, and 8th Naval District Hq., New Orleans, La.

AS MUCH AS $300 awaits military residents of Connecticut, under Vietnam Bonus Act passed by state legislature. Payments are $10 for each month of active duty to maximum of 30 months. Duty must have been after Jan. 1, 1964.

FIFTY ALLIED officers from 18 countries have begun classes in Air University's Allied Officer Familiarization Course at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Eight-week course prepares selected allied officers for participation in Air University Schools.

FIFTH ARMY INFANTRY Division (Mechanized), stationed at Ft. Carson, Colo., will celebrate its 50th birthday Dec. 9, with a mechanized review and open house at all units. Division was organized Dec. 11, 1917, and served through World War I and World War II.

HIGHEST AIR MEDAL of Brazilian government for foreign military personnel has been presented to Gen. Thomas P. Gerrity, Commander, Air Force Logistics Command. Gen. Gerrity received Brazilian Order of Aeronautical Merit, Degree of Grand Officer for "service to Brazilian Air Force." Previous U.S. recipients include AF Secretary Harold Brown, AF Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell and AF Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Bruce Holloway.

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THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

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Background for Commanders

OUR FOREIGN AID PROGRAM*

Foreign aid is not an optional accessory to American foreign policy—to be extended or withdrawn according to the pressures or pleasures of the moment. It is an integral part of our foreign policy. Indeed, in many of the developing countries economic development assistance *is* our foreign policy.

The United States provides foreign assistance through a variety of institutions. The principal sources, and the amounts which each provided last year include the following:

- The Agency for International Development (AID) provided $2.5 billion in dollar repayable loans and in grants.
- About $1.5 billion is in U.S. agricultural commodities which were sold or granted to less developed countries under the Food for Freedom program.
- The Export-Import Bank loaned about $500 million on a long-term basis to finance U.S. exports and return a profit to the United States.
- Another $500 million was provided to international development banks such as the International Development Association (IDA, the soft loan window of the World Bank) for loans to less developed countries.
- One billion was provided in the form of Military Assistance grants and credit sales (excluding Vietnam).
- $100 million financed Peace Corps operations.

Assistance provided is almost all in the form of commodities, equipment, construction projects, and human skills. Dollars are not presented to governments for use as they see fit. And 85 percent of all aid dollars are spent in the United States.

The AID Program

AID's chief objective is to help less developed countries achieve economic development. But economic development is only a shorthand term for a complex process of constructive social, political and cultural changes combined with sustained economic growth. It requires development of institutions which can generate popular participation in the development process. It involves capital, development of technical skills, building of private enterprise, and development of effective, dedicated leadership.

AID focuses its development programs in key countries which demonstrate the willingness and ability to make good use of aid resources. Nearly 90% of AID assistance is concentrated in 16 countries—such as India, Pakistan, Korea, Brazil and Chile. We are not trying to propel all underdeveloped countries dramatically to the income standards of the industrialized world. Instead, we seek to help recipient countries reach the point where they can move ahead on their own.

There have been notable successes. First there were the recovery programs of Western Europe and Japan.

Perhaps even more impressive—and more relevant to current problems—is the success story of Taiwan. We learned there that self-sustaining economic growth can be achieved at a surprisingly low per capita income. American aid has not made the Taiwanese wealthy—their per capita income is less than $200 per year—but our aid and their own efforts have given Taiwan the power to achieve further economic growth without further extraordinary assistance from AID.

Today, similar success is under way in Korea and Turkey. Both of these nations have set for themselves the goal of ending AID programs by the early 1970's.

For Americans, the temptation is overwhelming to ask for demonstrated results at the end of each fiscal year. And yet capital and technical help cannot change overnight social problems and practices which have been centuries in developing. The less developed countries are engaged, with our help, in compressing decades into months and years. Under that pressure, there will inevitably be failures and setbacks.

An essential part of our foreign aid is what we call human resources development. Each year AID provides training in the United States for about 10,000 foreign nationals. The training is so designed to help those countries receiving assistance from us to develop the manpower, skills and resources to use most advantageously the economic assistance we give.

Military Assistance

Our total program of grants and sales in recent years has been at an approximate rate of $3 billion per year. Ninety percent of our sales are to our NATO allies plus Japan, Australia and New Zealand. The remaining 10 percent of the sales go to various developing countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

The objectives of our military assistance programs are related directly to our goals of assisting in development of a stable world community of free and independent nations. Stability does not mean an absence of change; on the contrary, stability means orderly change; it means enough basic security for change to take place without widespread violence.

Foreign aid can be and is a deterrent to Communist expansionism. Most important, it can often provide the crucial margin of resources and skills needed to bring a nation's economy to the self-sustaining point. It can assist in the development of the institutions which make a free society function and grow.

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* *Excerpts from a recent address by Under Secretary of State Nicholas deB. Katzenbach.*

Air Force Lists 4,024 For Lt. Col. Promotion

The Air Force has listed 4,024 officers for promotion to lieutenant colonel in the fiscal year 1968 temporary promotion program. Included are 3,860 from the primary zone and 164 from secondary zone.

The first promotions are expected to become effective Nov. 20, others in monthly increments. All officers are expected to gain their new grade by next September, as vacancies occur.

On the list are 3,725 line officers, 84 nurses, 51 dental, 50 medical service, 44 medical, 32 biomedical sciences, 32 chaplains and six veterinarians.

Destroyer Escort Gray Launched at Seattle

The destroyer escort Gray was launched at Seattle, Nov. 3. It was sponsored by Mrs. E. B. Armel, sister of the late Sgt. Ross Franklin Gray, USMCR, for whom the ship was named.

The Gray is armed with one 5-inch gun, antisubmarine rockets, drone antisubmarine helicopter system, antisubmarine torpedo launchers and variable depth sonar.

The ship is 438 feet long, has a beam of 47 feet, displaces 4,000 tons and has a draft of 15 feet.

Dr. Louis Rousselot Selected As DOD Health, Medical Chief

Dr. Louis M. Rousselot has been selected for appointment as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower) Health and Medical, succeeding Dr. Shirley C. Fisk whose resignation was effective Sept. 2.

Maj. Gen. T. C. Bedwell, USAF, has been acting deputy in the absence of Dr. Fisk, who is Associate Dean at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Prior to the selection Dr. Rousselot was Director, Department of Surgery, St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center, New York City and Professor of Clinical Surgery, New York University School of Medicine.

HELICOPTER TOUR—Air Force Gen. Gabriel P. Disosway, Commander, Tactical Air Command, prepares to leave Bien Hoa Air Base in Vietnam for a brief tour of a nearby radar control site. Gen. Disosway visited the air base during a recent tour of Air Force facilities in Vietnam. While at the air base, the general was briefed on F-100 Supersaber jet combat operations and received a report on the new A-37 support aircraft.

Contract Let for Pershing Ground Support Equipment

A $52 million contract has been awarded for production of ground support equipment for the Pershing 1-A system.

Pershing 1-A involves a shift from tracked vehicles to wheels for all ground support equipment, including the erector-launcher. This is intended to increase the rate of fire, give increased reliability, less maintenance and over-all lower costs.

The new equipment features an erector-launcher which carries the complete missile on a single carrier towed by the Army's most modern truck—the M-656.

There is no change in the basic 34-foot, 400-mile range missile.

Martin Marietta Corp., will perform the work at its Orlando division.

Army Reserve, Nat. Guard Get Strength Increase

Secretary of Defense McNamara has announced a strength allowance increase for Army Reserve and National Guard three percent above Congressional mandate.

He said the additional authorization will permit them to meet their average annual strengths by compensating for the lag between discharging personnel and enlisting replacements.

For the Army Reserve, the increase will be distributed among units presently programmed for the Army Reserve component reorganization which begins Dec. 1.

The National Guard increase will be used to create about 125 company and detachment size units which will be added to the 2,900 units programmed for the reorganized structure.

Mr. McNamara said there will be no "significant additional costs" from these actions.

Defense Addressing System Scheduled for Expansion

The Defense Automatic Addressing System (DAAS) will be expanded early in 1968 to handle more than a half-million daily supply transactions.

DAAS operates under the Defense Supply Agency at Alexandria, Va. The latter supports the armed forces with common supplies and services including procurement of food, clothing, medical, petroleum, chemical, general, industrial and electronic items.

Present capacity of DAAS operations is between 175,000 and 200,000 transactions. Headquarters is at Gentile AFS in Dayton, Ohio. An operating facility also is located there with a second one at McClellan AFB, Calif.

Two more facilities are to be added at the Dayton headquarters in February, 1968 and another at McClellan in May. Final expansion is scheduled for FY1969 when total requirements are expected to be met.

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